

Land O'Lakes, Inc.

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May 22, 2005

The Honorable William Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Rep. Thomas:

I am writing on behalf of the dairy farmer members of Land O'Lakes to express support for passage of CAFTA. We have a long-standing policy of support for the negotiating process as a way to achieve a level playing field for food and agricultural products in world trade. CAFTA clearly achieves that goal.

Under the agreement, tariffs on U.S. dairy exports would be eliminated entirely at the end of the 20 year phase-in. CAFTA provisions call for immediate tariff-free access for whey and lactose, as well as several other dairy products. In addition, new quota quantities are established for U.S. dairy exports that allow approximately 10,000 metric tons of additional product to enter the six Caribbean countries duty-free. These additional exports are expected to result in benefits to the U.S. dairy industry of approximately \$100 million over the first several years of the agreement.

For these reasons, Land O'Lakes dairy farmer members urge passage of CAFTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Krikava".

Steven Krikava, Director
Government Relations